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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Chiharu IRIGUCHI

Group Art Unit: 1756

Application No.: 10/790,221

Examiner: C. YOUNG

Filed: March 2, 2004

Docket No.: 118580

For: ALIGNER, EXPOSING METHOD, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THIN-FILM TRANSISTOR, DISPLAY DEVICE, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE USING SHADING MEANS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

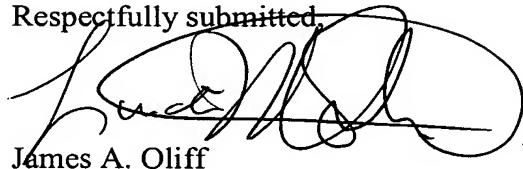
In reply to the November 13, 2006 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-7, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden.

See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Eric D. Morehouse
Registration No. 38,565

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:EDM/sqb

Date: December 13, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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